

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-02 /068 W

-----170904Z 033766 /11

R 170406Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9791

UNCLAS MANILA 7441

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: HERRERA CASE: EDITORIAL REACTION

1. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF EDITORIAL, "CONCERN FOR DETAINEES," WHICH RAN IN MAY 15 BULLETIN TODAY. SO FAR, THIS ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT ON CASE. BULLETIN TODAY IS MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THREE MANILA DAILIES.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE ORDER FROM THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF TO COURT-MARTIAL A PC OFFICER AND SEVERAL OTHERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALLEGED MALTREATMENT OF A WOMAN DETAINEE STRESSES THE CONTINUING CONCERN OF HIGH AUTHORITIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENTIAL ACTION ON THIS CASE WILL HAVE A POWERFUL DETERRENT EFFECT ON MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL THAT FROM TIME TO TIME ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ARRESTING AND INTERROGATING PERSONS SUSPECTED OF VIOLATING THE LAW.

4. IT WAS NOT TOO LATE FOR THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF TO ACT ON THIS PARTICULAR CASE. IT IS TRUE THAT THERE ARE RELATIVELY FEW PERSON DETAINED ON SUSPICION OF COMMITTING OFFENSES INVOLVING NATIONAL SECURITY. HOWEVER. BECAUSE OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT

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OTHER PERSONS ACCUSED OF SUCH OFFENSES WILL BE DETAINED IN THE FUTURE.

5. WE DO NOT THINK THAT MALTREATMENT OF DETAINEES IS A NECESSARY COROLLARY OF MARTIAL LAW. A CIVILIZED SOCIETY CAN TAKE MEASURES TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER WITHOUT VIOLATING ITS OWN CONSTITUTION ON CIVIL RIGHTS.

6. IF THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS ARE GENERALLY
VIOLATED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, THE FAULT LIES WITH
THEIR ORGANIZATIONS AND NOT WITH MARTIAL LAW ITSELF.
THERE HAVE IN FACT BEEN MANY DETAINEES WHOSE RIGHTS HAVE BEEN
FULLY RESPECTED BY THE MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL.
END TEXT.
STULL

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Message Attributes

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